



BAPTIST PRESS
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Baptist Educators Grapple With Enrollment Trends, Tuition Gaps

NASHVILLE (BP)--The future of the private church-related college and university hangs in the balance and may depend on solving the increasing cost gap for students attending private schools and public, state-supported institutions, the directors of the Illinois and North Carolina state boards of education told Southern Baptist educators here.

The two educators analyzed before the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools trends in growing enrollments at public colleges and universities compared to decreasing (or stabilized) enrollments at church-related schools, and plans in Illinois and North Carolina for tuition-equalization programs whereby state and private schools work together.

"Unless there is some massive intervention of state and national funds, enrollments in private colleges and universities will go down in the future while enrollments in public institutions will go up," said Cameron P. West, director of the North Carolina Board of Higher Education, Raleigh.

"It is apparent that the growth pattern presented in the state campus master plans has the potential for virtually destroying the private institutions, particularly at the graduate levels," added James B. Holderman, executive director of the Illinois state Board of Higher Education, Springfield.

West backed his statements with statistical projections of enrollments prepared for the state of North Carolina, and comparative figures for most other states where Southern Baptists have colleges and universities, except in the far west.

In the past three years in North Carolina, 13,500 additional students have enrolled in colleges and universities, but only 125 additional students have gone to private higher education institutions, West said.

West attributed the enrollment increases for public schools compared to virtually the same enrollments in private schools to the increasing gap in cost to the student to attend a private school.

He said in North Carolina, the average tuition per student at a private school is \$1,358 compared to \$420 for a state school. On the junior college level, the gap is even greater: an average of \$867 in private junior colleges compared to \$144 in community colleges, West said.

The gap is increasing, he said, because private institutions must pass on to the students the tremendous increases in the cost of running a college, while the taxpayer absorbs the cost increases for public education.

Both West and Holderman described efforts in North Carolina and Illinois to provide "tuition equalization" programs through grants, loans and other aid to students designed to close the gap and weld private and public higher education systems together.

Holderman said that none of the programs alone would solve the problems facing higher education, saying it is essential for higher education to "create some distinctly new patterns in state planning and development and coordination of higher education, both public and private."

He outlined a proposal currently before the Illinois legislature designed to establish "an integrated system" for both public and private higher education institutions using the total resources of all institutions for the benefit of each.

Currently, Illinois private higher education institutions could accommodate 13,419 students if the funds were available, Holderman said. The proposal would provide financial support to help the private higher education sector fill all its available enrollment capacity.

"I recognize the controversial nature of what we have proposed and I am perfectly aware of the problems of implementation which surely lie ahead," Holderman told the Baptist educators. "But I am even more convinced that the alternative is the demise of the private sector (universities) and a subsequent public sector strained with limited resources, exceedingly crowded facilities, and severely diminished quality. We all, and particularly the students, would be the losers," he said.

West issued a challenge for Baptist educators to realize that private schools are directly affected by the public policy as expressed by the legislature, the executive branch and the public institutions of any given state, and that private schools are not the masters of their own fate regarding the size and calibre of student bodies.

The presidents of six Baptist colleges and universities, three each responding to the two addresses, did not support or oppose the speakers' suggestions for tuition equalization legislation, but several emphasized West's plea for Baptists to become involved in the decision-making process affecting private and public school enrollments.

"Since the public policy has a great deal to do with our enrollment we had better get involved in public policy," said John Hamrick, president of the Baptist College at Charleston, S.C. Hamrick added that Baptists must work in the political structure, but they must also do a better job of "selling the product we already have."

Herbert Gabhart, president of Belmont College, Nashville, said that if Baptists "are going to maintain church-related colleges, we must seek to have college-related churches." He pointed out that legislation in Tennessee for tuition equalization was "emasculated in committee" with the legislature cutting out a \$5 million scholarship program.

"But I don't believe tuition grants will solve all our problems," Gabhart said. He added that one out of every five Tennesseans is a Baptist, and that while Baptists give \$1.74 per year per person for Baptist higher education, they pay \$44 per year each in taxes to support the state's colleges and universities. He said churches must give more support to Baptist colleges, citing one example of a church that voted to give \$80,000 or 13 per cent of its annual budget for three years, to Baptist schools.

Daniel Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., warned that much of the future of Baptist schools depends on how the Baptist school presidents and deans attending would respond to the challenge West and Holderman presented.

Grant said Baptist educators must re-examine the product they are "selling," the nature of the "market," and the nature of the "customers" to whom they sell their "product." He called for more emphasis on the "unique" aspects of higher education at a Christian-oriented college or university.

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Most Foreign Missionaries
Still Serve, Study Shows

6/16/71

RICHMOND (BP)--Seventy-one per cent of all Southern Baptist career missionaries appointed during the last 38 years are still in service, according to a longevity study released by the Mission Support Division of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board.

Career appointments from 1933 through 1970 now total 3,045. Of these, 2,168 are still in service along with personnel in auxiliary categories.

The longevity study is the other side of previous missionary loss studies which have showed an annual attrition in the career force of three to four per cent due to all causes--death, retirement, and resignation. Both studies covered only career missionaries.

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Approximately 90 per cent of the Southern Baptist Convention's foreign mission staff is made up of the permanent force, the study showed. As of June 1, 1971, there were 291 missionaries serving in the auxiliary (non-permanent) categories--missionary journeymen, missionary associates and special project personnel.

The longevity record goes to the 76 appointees in 1947 who still have 71 per cent of their number in active service. The 1956 group, who have 15 years in service, still have nearly 75 per cent of their number active.

The studies also confirmed previous research indicating that most missionary terminations occur between the seventh and ninth years of service, which would correspond with the end of the second term.

While 1969 was the record year for total missionary appointments (262), 1963 was the record for career missionary appointments (172).

Louis Cobbs, the board's secretary for missionary personnel, and Franklin T. Fowler, medical consultant, supervised the longevity and loss study for the board. They expressed the opinion that the board's record on longevity of personnel may rank favorably with that of any other agency.

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Don't Lower Bars On Moral
Behavior at School, Bates Warns

6/16/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention cautioned Baptist educators here against imitating public colleges and universities that have lowered the bars against drugs, sex and alcohol on the campus.

Carl E. Bates, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charlotte, N.C., and president of the 11.6 million-member convention, issued the warning in a major address to the annual Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools meeting here.

"Great pressure is already being brought to bear on some of our (Baptist) institutions for unrestricted drinking on the campus, and for open dormitories... and there may be increasing pressure for a more tolerant view of the use of drugs," Bates said.

He commended at least three Baptist university presidents for their strong stands on such issues, saying they and others like them "are offering an option to a large number of the American public who are rightly fed up with the contemporary note of permissiveness which has created so much moral chaos, and which has wrecked the lives of so many of our young people.

Bates noted there has been a general loss of confidence in higher education, which could be attributed to campus disorders, extremist groups on the campus, the failure of many administrators to act decisively, and a general lack of communication.

He said that the 43 Baptist colleges and universities and 11 junior colleges have been "comparatively calm" through the period, but they have been troubled with some attacks of militant anti-intellectualism. They have also suffered from decreasing enrollments caused by escalating costs and lack of scholarship programs.

Bates observed that it would be difficult to overestimate the importance of the contribution of these schools to the growth and development of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

He cautioned the Baptist college presidents attending the meeting against talking about how little Baptist give to support higher education programs, but to emphasize instead why the denomination should put more funds into their schools.

Baptists must be convinced their schools operate with a Christian purpose, and that they uniquely offer high moral standards coupled with instructions by dedicated Christian teachers, Bates told the educators.

"I am for Christian higher education because I know personally what it means to have been able to attend a Baptist college and a Baptist seminary," Bates said. "I know it is expensive to maintain schools, but have we stopped to count the cost to the denomination if we should move out of this area," he added.



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